THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): So far I have not been able to get his time. A.s soon as he is ready, I will persuade him to do that.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, I want to raise a very important matter.

उपसभापतिः : वह बता रहे हैं, समय होना चाहिए । समय निकालकर हाउस का समय देख लेंगे और उसके बाद वक्तव्य हो जाएगा । जैकब साहब इतनी जोर से पुकार रहे थे, वह सामने बैठे थे । . . . (व्यवधान)

Jacob Saheb can hear, 1 think. He has no hearing problem.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Whatever the request of the Member is. it can ba conveyed to the appropriate Minister.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I might be having an ear, nose and throat problem, but not he, I am sure.

RE. DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN BY LIC *IN* THE MATTER OF EMPLOYMENT ETC.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, the Finance Minister is here. I want to bring to his notice a very important issue relating to women. I appeal to the Finance Minister to take it up. This relates to the Life Insurance Corporation.

Previously I have had occasion to raise before the House the extreme discrimination practised by the LIC against women of this country.

Madam, the LIC had asked very embarrassing questions, physical questions "about women. I raised that in this House. I have not received any reply. I don't think that the LIC has taken any action.

Today. Madam, a very disturbing item has appeared in a newspaper. They called candidates for interview for the post of Peon in the I TO in Delhi. The written test was held on the 14th of June. One lady whose name is "Anita" from Kelpur village in Aligarh District, appeared in the written test. She passed it, and she qualified to be selected for an interview. She was called to Delhi for an interview. She came to Delhi. Over here, the moment they saw her, they refused to give her a job. They said that they would not employ women as Peons in the LIC. Madam, this is against the Constitution of India. That an agency of the Government should behave like this is shameful. *(Interruptions)*

1 have read other reports, Madam, that the LIC discriminates against women policy—holders also. I call upon my colleagues to support me in this. I demand that action be taken against the officers of the LIC in Delhi... *(Interruptions)*

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We support wholeheartedly.

SHRI GURUDAS DAs GUPTA (West Bengal); Madam, I extend my support to her. This is unfortunate. The LIC has been doing like this for a long time. Our complaint to the LTC Chairman has fallen flat, and the Finance Ministry has not taken any action so far as the dis crimination against women in the Life Insurance Corporation is concerned. The whole House joins with her. I wish the Minister would make a promise that he would look into it and see that the dis crimination was ended... *(Interrup tions)*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Madam I respect the sentiments of the House. There is no question that we should tolerate any discrimination against women. I shall ascertain the facts and report beck to the House.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now wo are going to take up the Calling Atten tion.

श्री छोटूभाई पटेल (गुजरात) : महोदया, मैं आपका...

उपसभापति : मंत्री जी यहां पर थे, कम्युनिकेशन के वह तो चले गए। आप पहले उठा लेते, अब वह चले गए। अब कल उठाइए इसको...

श्री छोटूभाई पटेल : मैडम, मैं जहां से आ रहा हूं सूरत और नौशारी वहां पर जून, 20, 21 और 22 के दौरान काफी बारिश हुई थी। तब से आज तक 50 दिन हो गए हैं वहां पर टेलीफोन सिस्टम पूरा ठप्प हो गया है। इस वजह से हमारी आवश्यक सेवायें जैसे अस्पताल हैं, सरकारी आफिस हैं, फायर ब्रिगेड हैं सभी आवश्यक सेवायें ठप्प हो गई हैं। हमारे यहां आप जानते हैं सूरत और नौशारी प्रासपरस सिटी है, सूरत नौशारी की इंडस्ट्रीज को टेलीफोन पहुंचना एक बड़ी समस्या हो गई हैं। 50 हजार टेलीफोनों में से 20 हजार ठप्प हो गए हैं। इनमें थोड़ा सुधार हुआ है। मेरी आपके माध्यम से सरकार से गुजारिश है कि डैकटिंग सिस्टम के जरिए सारे नेट वर्क से सूरत-नौशारी को जोड़ा जाए। जितनी जल्दी हो सके एक्सपर्ट टेक्नीशियंस वहां भेजे जायें। जब भेजे जायें उसी दौरान मुझे भी इन्फरमेशन दी जाए ताकि मैं भी वहां पहुच सकूं क्योंकि मैं टी.ए.सी. सूरत कमेटी का मेम्बर हूं। यह बड़ी आवश्यक और अहम बात है। आपके जरिए सरकार से गुजारिश करूंगा कि सूरत और नौशारी की टेलीफोन प्रणाली में तत्काल सुधार किया जाए।

उपसभापति : छोटू भाई पटेल जी आप पांच मिनट लेट बोले। मंत्री जी जब यहां बैठे थे तब आप बोलते तो वह तुरन्त सुन लेते। अब उनको कहला देंगे।

श्री छोटूभाई पटेल : मैंने शुरू से हाथ उठाया हुआ था लेकिन आपने इजाजत नहीं दी।

उपसभापति : कोई बात नहीं। I will convey the message.

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : अफगानिस्तान में भारी राकेट लगाये गये ... (**व्यवधान**)

†شری محمد سلیم: افغانستان میں بھاری راکٹ لگائے گئے ہیں۔ "مداخلت"....

उपसभापति : अभी अफगानिस्तान नहीं है... (**व्यवधान**)

We are not going to Afghanistan now. Please. We are not talking about Afghanistan. We are now going to Barcelona. Please take your set.

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम : लेकिन जो लोग राकेट ... (**व्यवधान**)

उपसभापति : आप बैठिए। (**व्यवधान**)

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम : इनका असर पंजाब में भी है (**व्यवधान**) यहां इस सदन में ऐसे लोग बैठे हुए हैं जो पिछले 14 साल से कह रहे थे... (**व्यवधान**) ये मुजाहीदीन लोग... (**व्यवधान**) फंडामेंटेली (**व्यवधान**)

†شری محمد سلیم: ان کا اثر پنجاب میں بھی ہے... "مداخلت" یہاں اس سدن میں ایسے لوگ بیٹھے ہوئے ہیں جو پچھلے ۱۴ سال سے کہہ رہے تھے... "مداخلت"..... یہ مجاہدین لوگ فنڈامینٹلی... "مداخلت"

उपसभापति : आप बैठिए। काम की बात करनी है। आपका नाम भी है। (**व्यवधान**) You were worried bout Barcelona. Whatever the hon. Member is raising may

† [ ] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

be of serious importance but according to the listed business, we have the Calling Attention on Barcelona. My only request to the Members is that this Calling Attention should not develop into a kind of an effort that by the end it becomes a non-starter and We-also don't get a gold medal for speaking too much and not getting anything. Please ask pointed questions.

मिस्टर जैन, आप दस मिनट के अंदर बोलेंगे और बाकी सब लोग सवाल करेंगे ।

I want to finish this so that the Minister has time to answer. Now let me bring the Calling Attention to the rail's.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE— THE PERFORMANCE OF THE INDIAN CONTINGENT IN THE BARCELONA OLYMPICS

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN (Madhya Pradesh): Madam, I beg to Call the attention of the Minister of Human Resource Development to the performance of the Indian contingent- in the Barcelona Olympics and the action taken by Government in regard thereto.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF , WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANER-JIBE): Madam, It is true that the performance of the Indian contingent in the recently concluded Barcelona Olympics has been disappointing. But there is no cause to be despondent.

Much of the media criticism, as also observations in the House, have been on the misplaced premise that a number of medals were expected when the Indian contingent was cleared for participation in the Barcelona Olympics. At the very outset, Government would like to clarify that the selection of the contingent was based on a joint decision taken in consultation with the Indian Olympic Association and the concerned National' Federations that all those who qualify as per the format laid by the concerned International Federation should be allowed to participate in the Olympics. There was no doubt hope of a couple of medals in Hockey or Archery or Shooting. But as regards the other disciplines, especially the contact sports of Boxing, Wrestling and Judo it was known that there is a gap between our standards and at the highest international class.

The decision by the Government to agree to the suggestion of clearing the contingent on the basis of format prescribed by the concerned International Federation was on account of its anxiety to create the necessary environment for sports which would have received a set back if the players were not allowed to participate in the Olympics even after they had qualified through the prescribed format of the concerned International level Federation.

[The V ice-Chairman (Shrimati Jayanthi • Natarajan) in the Chair]

Whereas it would be possible for the Government to make a detailed statement only after the return of the contingent and receipt of the Report of the Chef-de-Mission and of Managers of the respective disciplines, it would not be out of place to mention at this stage that performances of Ramesh Krishnan and Leander Paes in the doubles event in Tennis, Deepankar Bhattacharya in Badminton, Kamlesh Mehta in Table Tennis, Subhas Verma in Free Style Wrestling, Pappu, Yadav in Greco-Roman Wrestling, Shiney Wilson in Athletics, and Limba Ram in Archery have been commendable. It was unfortunate that Limba Ram got eliminated due to a new format of one to one elimination on the basis of 12 arrows to be shot at 70 mtr distance on a day which was very windy. He had earlier qualified after 2 days of gruelling competition of 144 arrows by each archer over four distances of 30 mtr, 70 mtr, 50 mtr and 30 mtr where he was 11th out of 70 competitions. His elimination in the new format was also by